Memoranda of an Anti Slavery Movement in Leicester.

Sunday 11 Feb. 1844. The following Notice was given in all 7 different places of Meeting in L. Town.

"All persons in L. Town who wish and mean to be active opponents of Slavery, are requested to meet at the Town Hall on Friday Evening next, at 7 o'clock, punctually, to take measures to secure greater harmony & energy of action amongst us on this subject."

Friday evening, Feb. 16. Meeting held. About 30 men present, an 8 or 10 women!! N.B. Not generally understood that women were invited. From Claypitte, was A. Fitt jr. From Ch. Valley, Saml. Watson, Jasa Wood, Sykes, Rufus Rockwood. From Village. S. May, J. Nelson, J. L. Partridge, J. Clarke jr, L. Haven, J. Clapp, W. B. Olds, L. B. Jones, S. Gleason, S. Daines, M. W. Maynard, S. W. Kent, Jos. A. Denny, N. Ainsworth, G. B. Upham.

Also, Wm. B. Earle, Daniel Clapp. — Mrs. Clapp & Miss Spear, Mrs. J. D. Sargent, Miss P. M. Upham, Mrs. May, Mrs. A. Fitt jr, Mrs. Fitch & sister.

Voted, To choose a Committee of Nine to draft a Constitution of a Society. Chose, J. Nelson, J. Clarke jr, S. May, J. A. Denny, A. Fitt jr. W. B. Olds, W. B. Earle, S. W. Kent, Saml. Watson.

Adjourned to Wednesday 28th Feb.

Monday Evg. Feb. 19. Above named Committee met at house of Jos. A. Denny. Present, all. A Constitution for an Association reported by A. Fitt Jr., with some stylist Modifications, was agreed upon

at r. Committee's Report to the adjourned Meeting.
Mr. Nelson was desirous yt. something shd. be
inserted, laying some limitation on ye subject to
be brought before r. Association. But this was
not agreed to. Not another person spoke in favour
of it.

A discussion between Mr. Nelson & myself
on r. subject of the Rights of Women in public
Meetings took place.

Wed. Evg. 28 Feb. Though a heavy fall of snow
had come, blocking up yd. roads very badly,
a considerable number assembled to hear
r. Comtee's Report. We remained together till
ye part 8 o'clk, when, Mr. Firth not arriving (who
had the Comtee's Report in his possession) the
meeting was adjourned to Monday eveg March 11th.

While together, there was an informal discussion,
chiefly touching the 'Church & Clergy' aspect of r.
question. Mr. Colburn thought that Anti-Slavery
had nothing to do with r. "Church and Clergy."

Mond. March 11. Committee reported. Report accepted.
Committee appointed to get signatures to r. constitution.
adjourned, a fortnight.

Mond. eveg. March 25. Chose officers. S. May. Pres. Dr.
J. Nelson, W. B. Olds, V. Pres.ts. A. Firth jr. Sec. J. Clark
Jr. Treas. Also, a Town Anti-Slavery Committee of 20,
composed of men & women.

Mond. Eveg. ~~March~~ April 1., and Mond. Evenig. April 8., the Texas question was debated, and well debated too. At the conclusion, a unanimous Vote was passed That in the event of the Annexation of Texas to the U.S., it wd be the duty of the Free States to separate themselves from all connexion with the Slave States.

Mond. Eveg. Apr. 15. Discussed, at Cherry Valley, the question "Can an Antislavery Man consistently vote for a Slaveholder."

Yea: J. Clarke Jr.

Nay. S. May. - G. B. Upham. - R. Rockwood

Mond. Eveg Apr. 29. Same question, Town Hall.

Yea. L. Haven, J. Clarke jr., H. G. Henshaw.

Nays A. Fitch jr., G. B. Upham, Mayo, D. Clapp

P.S. This question was subsequently discussed at Clappville. Yeas. S. H. Moore.

Nays. W. B. Old, S. May. A. Fitch Jr.

Again, it was discussed at Clappville (F. Way not present.)

June - Same question, Town Hall. 2 successive Eves.

Affirmative, J. Clark jr.

Negative, W. B. Earle, S. May, S. W. Colburn, Dan. Clapp

A. Fitch jr. Final Vote - 12 Yeas
10 Nays.

So the "Leicester Antislavery Association" decided that it was consistent for an Antislavery Man to vote for a Slaveholder!

In August, Septembee, and 1st Monday in October, a discussion took place on the question, "Ought f. Free States to demand such amendments of f. Const"; as shall free them from all ~~burdens~~ Obligation to sustain Slavery?"
- Position taken by S.M. "No Union with Slaveholders"-
Mr. Nelson "dissented from this position".

Vote taken - Decided affirmatively, nem. con.

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 13. p. 62